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ary realm. The author of the *Ludwigslied* was a scholar, not without experience in writing, who needed only Otfrid's training to become his peer.

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## TWO NOTES ON *PATIENCE*

### I

The first line of the Middle English poem *Patience* has puzzled editors, since the meaning of *poynt* has not been satisfactory. So unsatisfactory is it that Mr. Macaulay suggested adding *nobel* before *poynt*, as in the last line of the poem; see Bateson's edition, which adopts the reading. This, at any rate, improves the sense, though such an omission in the first line of the poem seems strange. The new edition by Professor Gollancz,<sup>1</sup> with a facsimile of the first page of the manuscript, suggests the possibility of another reading. From this facsimile it is apparent that a *poynt* of all previous editions may be *apoynt*. This suggests at once a more satisfactory meaning for the line.

*Patience is apoynt, þag hit displese ofte*

would then mean, 'Patience is commanded, or prescribed, though it may often displease, or be unpleasant.'

Such a reading is at least possible in this place. It is true that, in the manuscript of these alliterative poems, an unstressed monosyllable is often united with the following word, as noted by Professor Osgood in his edition of *Pearl* (p. x). In his facsimile the words a *poynt* of line 309 of that poem are joined in much the same way as the word or words in question in the first line of *Patience*. The same is also true in lines 594 and 891, as Professor Osgood writes me.

<sup>1</sup>*Select Early English Poems. I. Patience, an alliterative version of Jonah by the poet of Pearl.* Edited by I. Gollancz. Oxford University Press, 1913.

Even this, however, does not offer any valid objection to reading *apoynt* in the line under discussion. If the author had intended the single word, he could not have joined the parts more closely.

Nor does the reading *poynt*, the substantive, in the last line of the poem prevent our reading *apoynt* here. The other poems of the author do not show invariable repetition of the first line in the last. In fact they would rather indicate the intention to vary the two lines somewhat. Yet the real reason for the emendation must be in the better sense which it supplies. This, it seems to me, is unquestionable. The poem emphasizes patience not as a desirable quality merely, but as one necessary to happiness. It is so spoken of in the first few lines of the poem, in lines 45 and following, in lines 347-8, and at the close, especially lines 521 to the end.

Moreover, this is unmistakably the teaching of Tertullian's *De Patientia*, which it seems probable the poet knew. I take some sentences from the translation in the Ante-Nicene Fathers:

"So is patience set over the things of God, that one can obey no precept, fulfil no work well-pleasing to the Lord, if estranged from it" (ch. i);

"Willingly, therefore, let us lose things earthly, let us keep things heavenly. Perish the whole world, so I may make patience my gain" (ch. vii);

"But, however, since patience takes the lead in every species of salutary discipline, what wonder that she ministers to repentance" (ch. xii);

"For Patience sits on the throne of that calmest and gentlest Spirit, who is not found in the roll of the whirlwind, nor in the leaden hue of the cloud, but is of soft serenity, open and simple, whom Elias saw in his third essay" (ch. xv).

Incidentally, the facsimile in this new edition, with its indication of closely written letters and words, seems to confirm two emendations which I recently offered in *Englische Studien*, XLVII, 125-31. An earlier proposal to read *as sayled* for *assayled* of the

manuscript (l. 301) appears in both new editions, Mr. Gollancz saying in his notes that he had arrived at it independently. The later proposals of similar divisions are in lines 269 and 279, where I suggested reading *glaym ande* for *glaymande*, and *ramel ande* for *ramelande*.

## II

The reading in line 231 presents a difficulty that has not been satisfactorily explained.

He watȝ no tytter out-tulde þat tempest ne sessed,

so far as any glossary of these poems assists us, should mean 'He was no sooner cast out [than] the tempest or storm did not cease.' It is true that Mr. Bateson tries to get rid of the difficulty by calling *ne* enclitic (see glossary), but what he means is not clear. Professor Gollancz gives *ne* as 'not' in his glossary, but in his notes translates the above line without the troublesome word. Yet *ne* can not be a second negative, enforcing the preceding, since it occurs in a different clause from the first and clearly modifies a different verb.

I suggest reading *ne* adv. 'nigh, near, nearly,' and the line, 'He was no sooner cast out [than] the storm nigh (nearly) ceased.' This is paralleled and completed by the next line, 'The sea became quiet therewith, as soon as it (she) might.' The writer of the poem, well acquainted with the sea as we know, was too much of a realist to follow any more closely the statement in *Jonah*, 1, 15: *Et tulerunt Jonam, et miserunt in mare; et stetit mare a fervore suo*.

Such a reading as I propose depends upon the possibility of ME. *neȝ*, common in these poems beside *nyȝ*, appearing as *ne*. In the first place it is scarcely necessary to call attention to the frequent omission of a letter or letters in the manuscripts of these poems. The reading may therefore be *ne=neȝ*. Nor will it be necessary to remind students of this poet that final *ȝ*(*ȝe*) must sometimes have been silent. Compare the rimes of *Pearl*, 301-312, where even *sorquydryȝe* is written for OF. *surquiderie*, riming with *ȝȝe* and other English words. Again, the parallel form *nyȝ*

often appears without the final consonant, as in Chaucer's *ny*, adj. and adv., beside *neigh*, *ney*.

However, none of these explanations need be taken. There is good evidence that *ne* 'nigh, nearly' in *Patience* is probably the correct reading. The word *ne*(*nee*) is not only found in early Modern Scotch, but is still used in the very district to which the poet of *Pearl* and *Patience* is supposed to have belonged. The *Oxford Dictionary* gives an example from Douglas's *Æneis* X, xiv, 5:

Hys helm of skill besyde hym hang weil ne;

and Jamieson's *Scottish Dictionary* furnishes another from the same source, though without specifying place:

The latter terme and day approchis ne.

The *English Dialect Dictionary*, so useful with these poems, assigns the modern word to Lancashire and northwest Derbyshire. Lancashire examples are: "Very nee ten o'clock" from Brierley's *Layrock*, ix; and "It wur gettin nee bed time" from Waugh's *Heather*, I, 222. Wright also gives *nee* adj., *nigh*, in his *Dictionary of Provincial English*. While the earliest of these examples do not go back quite so far as *Patience*, I have no doubt the one case in line 231 is genuine, and think it not improbable that other examples in Middle English may be found.

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## ZU ULRICH'S LANZELET 4720 ff.

Im Verlaufe der Erzählung erfährt der Held von einer Botin der 'merfeine,' bei der er auferzogen wurde, seinen eigentlichen Namen und dass es von ihm geweissagt würde, er werde im Kampfe nie unterliegen. Ferner berichtet sie über das Schicksal welches den Vater getroffen, dass aber seine Mutter noch am Leben sei und